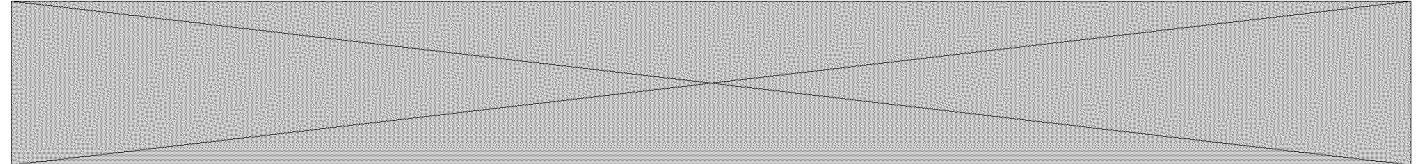


To: Sysum, Scott[Sysum.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Allen Matkins News
Sent: Fri 11/18/2016 11:31:14 PM
Subject: California Environmental Law & Policy Update - November 18, 2016

This week's latest California environmental law news.

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FOCUS

BP to pay \$14 million in settlement over gas storage tanks

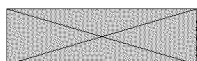
San Jose Mercury News - November 17

The BP oil company has agreed to pay \$14 million to settle California prosecutors' allegations of violations in operating and maintaining underground fuel tanks at 780 gas stations around the state over the past 10 years. State Attorney General Kamala Harris and prosecutors from Alameda, San Diego, and eight other California counties announced the civil settlement with BP on Thursday. Under the settlement, which still needs final approval from the Alameda County Superior Court, BP officials agree to make the settlement

payments without admitting to violations.

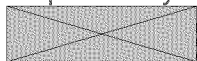


NEWS



Step in long march toward California water deal in Congress

Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday approved a major irrigation drainage deal that would politically potent Westlands Water District, a Rhode Island-sized district in the San Joaquin Valley. The bill would forgive a roughly \$375 million debt owed by Westlands and Modesto by October 16, 2016. In return, the district would retire 100,000 of its 600,000 acres and relieve the federal government of its obligation to build a potentially multibillion-dollar irrigation drainage system. As part of the deal, Westlands would assume responsibility for providing the irrigation drainage.



LA district urges shut down of gas wells near Porter Ranch

By Porter Ranch parents, children, and environmental activists, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (LACOB) governing board voted on Tuesday to ask that the state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, the Public Utilities Commission, and Governor Jerry Brown close the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility, a 3,600-acre gas field beneath the hills north of Porter Ranch. LAUSD will also request that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power not burn diesel, a source of pollution, at its Sun Valley and Wilmington power plants to replace any resulting shortage of natural gas. The Aliso Canyon gas leak released more than 100,000 metric tons of methane into the air from October 2015 through February, forcing the relocation of 8,400 families and two Porter Ranch elementary schools.

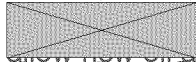


Sue over offshore hydraulic fracturing

Ventura County Star - November 16

Environmental Defense Center and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper filed a lawsuit in federal court to prohibit offshore drilling practices in the Santa Barbara Channel, arguing that federal agencies did not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act in their analysis and

approvals. In May, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released an environmental review of hydraulic fracturing and other well stimulation treatments at 23 oil and gas platforms off California's coast. Their analysis found no significant environmental impacts. The environmental groups, however, allege the review was inadequate in examining potential impacts to water and air quality and about two dozen threatened or endangered species, including whales, otters, birds, and fish.

 President Obama rescinds Arctic offshore drilling proposal

The president has rescinded a proposal to allow new oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic over the next five years. The Interior Department released on Friday, taking drilling rights sales off the table through 2022. The Interior Department had previously proposed limited drilling rights sales in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas north of Alaska, where there has never been oil and natural gas production from traditional mobile drilling rigs. The decision all but bans Arctic drilling for that time period, since oil companies have let almost all of their leases in the Arctic expire or have surrendered them. Subject to a long regulatory process, President-elect Donald Trump could seek to amend the five-year drilling plan to add more sales. Because the plan is being released late in President Obama's time in office, congressional Republicans could try legislatively to overturn the plan or open the Arctic or Atlantic to drilling.

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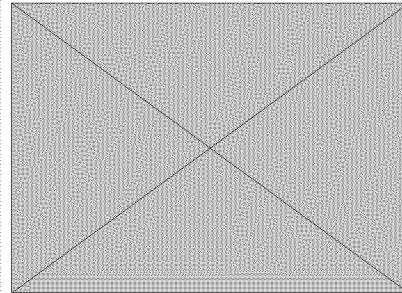
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